

BIRDS' NESTS FOUND ON MASKAN ISLAND. (7-5-42).

(a) The Crested Lark, '*Goba*', were nesting. I found one small nest under a '*Hamdh*' bush with three eggs. The nest was completely made of dry '*Samaa*' grass and very neat. I also found a similar nest under a bush but very small and only about one and a half inches across, but with no eggs. The larks sang each morning and evening.

(b) The Green Bee-eater '*Kadhari*' had some fifteen to twenty nests all in burrows. One small white almost spherical egg was picked up at the entrance to one of these tiny burrows. They are dug obliquely into the ground for quite ten feet.

(c) Kentish Plover, '*Garawi*' were nesting. Their nests were usually on the dry hard patches of earth away from the shore, and were just a circular depression lined with chips of dried mud and pieces of broken sea shell. I found two nests containing three eggs and one nest with one egg. One bird was seen running ahead of us trailing her wing and taking a zigzag shoreward course. She probably had young, but I could not find them.

(d) The small Terns, '*Juwaida*' were also nesting and flew over-head screeching. One nest under a '*Hamdh*' bush contained one egg slightly more pointed than (c) above was possibly a Tern's, though the nest was similar.

KUWAIT,

VIOLET DICKSON.

PERSIAN GULF,

May 7, 1942.

VIII.—BLACK MAHSEER.

(With a plate)

With reference to your letter of the 14th January; when I originally wrote to you on the subject of Black Mahseer which led to the publication of an article in the Journal (vol. xlii, p. 804 et seq.) by Dr. Sundar Lal Hora, I did not realize the importance which was likely to be attached to photographs of these fish. I therefore only sent a picture of one caught by me. Luckily, however, I had photographed all four Black Mahseer caught by me and mentioned by Dr. Hora in his article. A photograph of one was published in his article and I now enclose those of the other three.

The $11\frac{3}{4}$ lb. fish caught at Ukiam on the Unkhri river in Kamrup District on the 20th December 1937 is illustrated in Plate I, Fig. 1. This fish was caught in gin clear, almost still, water and came rushing out from behind a rock to take a brass backed and silvery fronted 2 inch hog backed spoon, mounted with two flying trebles. In the photograph, the head looks something like a Boka. This is, however, due to the background and to the tension on the lower jaw by the spring balance on which the fish was being held at the time.



Fig. 1.—11 $\frac{3}{4}$ -lb. Fish. Kamrup Dist.



Fig. 2.—18-lb. Fish. Syom River.



Fig. 3.—Smallest Black Mahseer seen.

BLACK MAHSEER

Photos by author.